

Lewis and Vastia Mecham came West in 1862 by ox team and settled in Rush Valley with a Johnson family. Here their son Lewis Lafayette Mecham was born on September 30, 1862. Vastia died in 1865. In the spring, Lewis saddled up his horse and with his earthly belongings and his 2 and a half year old son, Lewis "Lafaye" behind him on the saddle, he rode into Provo to his parents' home. They all moved to Wallsburg shortly after.

Dear Creek Reservoir now. The place on the Provo River had a little lake on it called Lewis Lake, after Lewis Mecham. Esther took "Lafaye" and mothered him as her own. They had a large family and many trials and tribulations, but the Lord blessed them mightily.

When Esther Herbert arrived with her mother, Esther Lewis Herbert, in Wallburg, they lived in a small fort at the head of spring, so they could use the beautiful clear water. This was for protection from Indians.

After her marriage to Lewis Mecham, their first home was made of cottonwood logs with a dirt floor. The only window was a log that was left out during the day to let the light in. It was put back in place at night to keep the cold out. The fireplace, used for cooking and heating, was made of rocks. Later Lewis Mecham built a large granary and they moved into this. When he threshed he had a bin for the grain in one end of the granary. They built their beds on top of the bin, using mattresses of straw. They also used pillows and feather beds filled with wild duck feathers. One time they had a "bad year," so had to take the straw out of the mattresses to feed the livestock.

Esther was terribly frightened of Indians. When they were living on the Provo River and Lewis had to be away from home, she would take the small children and go up in the foothills until Lewis came home. One day the Indians came into her home and caught her by surprise. The collar of her garments was sticking up above her dress. The Indians, seeing this, said, "Mormon, Mormon," and went away without harming her in any way.

Esther had a very patient disposition. After they were grown, all her children used to go home to visit "mother" on Sunday. While the older folks visited, the grandchildren built playhouses in the willows along the creek. None will ever forget Grandma Esther's good bread, butter and currant jelly sandwiches and her special "English tea biscuits."

During her last few years she lost her eyesight. She was always very patient about it while she had to sit in her big leather-covered rocking chair, until she died when 83 years old.

Their children: Luke Rollin, Orsen, Esther Polly, George Fayette, Emma Naomi, Ephraim L., Sarah E., Marquis Herbert, Mary Elvira, Gib Ami, Permelia Villan, Bernet Rurion and Alice Marinda.

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Married Vasta Johnson (daughter of Luke Johnson). Their child: Lafayette (deceased), m. Sarah Ann Richens.

Married Ester Herbert. Their children: Luke R.; Polly Esther; Orson; George Fayette, m. Ida Viola Boren; Emma Naomi; Ephraim Liberty; Marquis Herbert; Mary; Gib Ami; Burnet; Alice. Family home Wallsburg, Utah.

Seventy; second counselor to Bishop Fraghton at Wallsburg, Utah. Veteran of the Black Hawk and the Walker Indian wars, and also took part in the Johnston army trouble. Farmer. Died Oct. 14, 1907.

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